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13 conclude
to said source.

Delete claim 20, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16 and 19 have been amended to remove the Examiner's objection under 35 U.S.C. 132 relating to new matter. Claim 20 has been deleted, without prejudice. Claims 1-19 remain in this application and stand for examination. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the comments made hereinafter.

Objections to new matter

The Examiner objects to the inclusion of new matter in the disclosure under 35 U.S.C. 132 which new matter relates to the "movement limiting device" as previously set forth in claims 1, 16 and 19.

By today's amendment, the phrase found objectionable by the Examiner has been removed from the three independent claims. Applicant traverses the objection since, of course, there is a strong implication and suggestion that a movement limiting device must be present in order to remove a portion of the protective overlay on the compact disc without removing the underlying data. Nevertheless and in the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, the phrase found objectionable has been removed from the claims in today's paper.

Objection to the drawings

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The Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

New formal drawings accompany today's amendment which drawings should overcome the Examiner's objections in this regard.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 16-20 for obviousness

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kennedy et al United States Patent 6,322,430 in view of Becker et al United States Patent 4,604,027.

Initially, it is noted that the Kennedy et al patent teaches a polishing machine which does not utilise successive workstations, although, to be fair, Kennedy does state at column 3, line 28-29, that "multiple workstations may be provided". Nevertheless, even though Kennedy et al can be said to disclose the possibility of multiple workstations, there is no technique disclosed or suggested for transferring the disc between workstations. Rather, it must be assumed that the disc is manually transferred by the user from the first to the second workstation if a second workstation is to be provided in the Kennedy et al technology at all. And Becker et al do not assist Kennedy et al in this regard. Becker et al relate to a wafer treatment facility so the art cannot be considered analogous. And, Becker et al do not provide for a transfer of the disc between workstations as is apparent from the description (col. 7,

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line 66 to col. 8, line 31). Becker et al do show two workstations, but there is no transfer mechanism between them. The wafer always stays in the workstation where it originated or was originally positioned.

Indication of allowable subject matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 4-15 by the Examiner and applicant submits that in respect of today's amendments to claims 1, 16 and 18, claims 4-15 should remain in allowable condition.

Today's paper is accompanied by an attached sheet showing the claim amendments and entitled "VERSION WITH AMENDMENTS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE".

Having regard to the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is requested and allowance of claims 1-19 is now respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Per: _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

1. ^{Twice} [Amended] Apparatus for reconditioning a protective coating on a digital disc carrying data beneath said protective coating, said apparatus comprising at least one tool at a first workstation being operable to be brought into contact with said protective coating, ~~a movement limiting device for said one tool to allow said one tool~~ ^{and} to remove a portion of said protective coating without removal of said data underlying said protective coating, said one tool being a protective overlay removal tool operable to remove a portion of said protective coating without damage to said underlying data, and a disc advancement mechanism to ^{allow} ~~advance~~ said digital disc ^{to be operated upon at both} ~~from~~ said first workstation ^{and at} to a second and successive workstation.

16. ^{Twice} [Amended] Method for reconditioning a protective coating on a compact disc with data underlying said protective coating, said method comprising positioning said disc in a first workstation, bringing a first tool into contact with said protective coating in a first operation, ~~limiting the movement of said first tool in order to remove a portion of said protective coating without damaging said underlying data and~~ ^{subsequently operating} ~~transferring~~ ^{at a subsequent workstation} ~~said compact disc from said first workstation to a subsequent workstation when said first tool has completed said first operation.~~ ^{by automatic movement between said first and subsequent workstations}

19. ^{Twice} [Amended] Method of reconditioning a plurality of digital discs which have had protective coatings damaged thereby

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resulting in a misread or a non-read of data on said discs
underlying said protective coating, ⁽⁵⁾ said method comprising
obtaining said digital discs from a source of digital discs,
transferring said digital discs from said source to a protective
coating reconditioning machine, reconditioning said protective
coatings of said digital discs in said reconditioning machine by
the removal of a predetermined amount of said protective coating
~~at a first workstation~~ ^(working on)
~~without damage to said underlying data and automatically~~
~~transferring said discs~~ ^(damaging) ~~between at least two workstations~~ ^(at a second and successive workstation) in a
reconditioning process to obtain reconditioned discs and
returning said reconditioned discs to said source.

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